

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION  
JANUARY 4, 2011**

This meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi, who welcomed the audience. This meeting was properly advertised under Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

The flag salute was led by Boy Scouts from Troop 72 Shane Edwards and Ryan Edwards, and Cub Scout Pack 72 members Andrew Edwards, Tommy McGowan, and Declan Lawlor. Following the flag salute, Mayor Mazzeo requested a moment of silence be observed.

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilman 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Tom Polistina by his brother, attorney William Polistina. Polistina was accompanied by his daughters Marissa and Courtney. He thanked those who campaigned, voted for, and supported him. He said he will do his best to serve everyone in Northfield.

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilman 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Greg Dewees by Assemblyman John Amodeo, who said it was an honor to do so. Dewees was joined by his wife Jackie, son Christopher, and daughter Kelsey.

Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi took Roll Call as follows:

Present: Timothy Carew, Greg Dewees, Cynthia Kern, Frank Perri, Tom Polistina, Brian Smith, Steven Vain

City Solicitor Keith Bonchi and City Engineer Matt Doran were also in attendance.

Canesi called for a motion to elect a Council President for the year 2011. Motion by Councilwoman Kern, second by Councilman Vain to elect Council-at-Large Tim Carew as Council President.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Motion carries.

Council President Carew thanked Council for the opportunity, and recognized the many local dignitaries in attendance. A 5 minute recess was called to allow for photographs.

Carew said the City is still facing many challenges. He thanked the City employees for their hard work and support; their cooperation is appreciated. The budget will be the number one priority in 2011, with budget meetings to be scheduled shortly. The 2011 Committee assignments will be distributed at the end of the meeting.

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**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES/ DECEMBER 14, 2010**

Motion was made by Councilman Vain, second by Councilman Smith to dispense with the reading of the minutes of December 14, 2010. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – abstain; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – abstain; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

**MAYOR VINCENT MAZZEO'S 2011 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

“In Northfield's 105<sup>th</sup> year of incorporation we faced many new and challenging budget issues that took the forefront. In 2010 the City Of Northfield weathered an economic storm and still maintained great service to its residents. The shortfall going into our budget meetings resulted in concessions to bring our City in compliance to be within the 4% cap. The fire, police and public works departments all agreed to give-backs totaling \$340,000. The Library Board of Trustees also agreed for the second straight year to return \$55,000 to the City to reduce the tax burden to our residents. These are encouraging signs that everyone is willing to work together in these tough times. Interests on our investments decreased slightly, and revenue was slightly down in the building department. But there are positive signs. Applications to the Planning Board started to increase toward the end of the year, and Court revenues increased slightly. Looking for ways to increase revenues the City sold a liquor distribution license for \$ 604,000. This new revenue is welcome and will help replenish some of surplus we used last year and hopefully pay down some of long term debt. The City's total debt is \$ 7,264,000.

The 2009 reevaluation made for a large increase in tax appeals. A total of 170 tax appeals were filed in 2010. The total valuation of the City took a hit because of so many tax appeals but we stand strong with a total valuation of \$ 988 million and 97.84 % of 2010 taxes collected.

In 2010 City council passed 217 resolutions and 17 ordinances and provided much needed upgrades to our City. Improvements to drainage problems on Madison Avenue and Hollywood Drive were completed and drier days are on the horizon for these sections of the City. The focus in 2011 will be on Marita Ann Drive and Davis Avenue drainage projects. We plan to ensure that the capital allocated for these projects is well spent. The answers to these drainage problems aren't always an easy solution. We are looking for help with Davis Avenue through the county system and hope our request is granted.

The paving projects completed in 2010 were Pincus Avenue, Debora Street, and Ridgewood Drive. The final phase of Mt.Vernon Avenue was completed through a 2010 municipal aid grant. The 2011 paving projects are in the works with Willow

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and Locust Drives; it is hoped that these will be paid for through 2011 municipal aid grant. The feasibility of additional paving projects will come down to financing for these projects. If finances are available, Franklin Avenue and other paving projects should be addressed throughout the City in 2011.

The upgrade to Birch Grove Park and our recreation field is ongoing and in 2010 led to some interesting discussions. The Birch Grove Park Center, funded totally by the Atlantic County Open Space trust fund, will be finished early in 2011. Also, the continuation of the walkway around the lakes will make for an enjoyable fishing and nature experience. This was funded through the Community Development Block grant.

In 2010 the City continued its goal by pursuing its Sustainable Jersey Certification. The energy audit was completed and the recommendations provide us with a blueprint for upgrades that will help us use less energy and reduce expenses. Some of these recommendations will be implemented in 2011. Lower energy bills will have a direct impact on the bottom line and help reduce the tax burden to our residents.

We continued to upgrade the City's technology in 2010. The e-mail blasts became a valuable tool sent out monthly or when needed with important information to our residents. Transparency continues to be a priority in Northfield and we have added several features to our website that gave access to more information than ever, 24 hours a day. Residents are now able to review the budget, pending ordinances, minutes and meeting notices and other informative documents all by visiting [cityofnorthfield.org](http://cityofnorthfield.org). Residents can use our website to stay informed on the latest upcoming events, City happenings and emergency information.

Traffic safety is always a top priority. A new speed hump was installed on Shepherd Drive. Two-hour parking was expanded down Cedar Bridge Road to relieve congestion leading up to the school. This year the City installed four-way stops at seven intersections along the bike path, making it safer for our children and slowing motor vehicles down. In 2011 a new traffic signal will be installed at the Zion Road and Oak Avenue intersection.

The Police Department had various checkpoints throughout the year including those for driving under the influence, seatbelt violations, cell phone use and giving pedestrians the right-of-way. Newly installed in-car video will protect our officers and the City from frivolous lawsuits.

The City offers many events throughout the year that all can participate in and enjoy. The Cultural Committee has antique appraisals, concerts in the park and an annual flea market. New this year was a bike rodeo at Northfield Community School. This provided important information for bicycle safety and giveaways including new bicycles and helmets. This was made possible through a Safe Routes to Schools

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grant. The Northfield Police department has established Northfield's Night Out as one of the best in the area. The Municipal Alliance helps provide funding for this event each year. They also funded a fishing contest this year, held prior to the Family Fun Fest. The Fun Fest was successful this year due to the efforts of the volunteers planning and organizing the event. All City events are made possible when volunteers and City employees work together. I would like to thank all volunteers from the Fire Department, Ladies Auxiliary, Planning Board, Library Board of Trustees, Birch Grove Park Advisory Board, the Northfield Neighborhood Watch, Northfield All Sports, and Northfield Little League. The volunteers continue to be the strength of our community.

We must always recognize the Veterans of our community, those who served and gave the ultimate sacrifice. Thank you for your participation in the Memorial parade and Veteran's day events.

To City council of 2010 thank you for your leadership, decisions and your hard work. To all employees thank you for your commitment, hard work and understanding during these difficult times. During this past year two long time employees retired from the City. In 2011 the challenge of a 2 % cap will force us to make difficult decisions. We must look at the community we live and understand we are all in this together. We must work for the common good to provide a great community we can be proud of. I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year and I am looking forward to only the best for the City of Northfield in 2011. Thank you."

**AGENDA REVIEW**

President Carew reviewed the agenda.

**RESOLUTIONS**

On a motion by Councilwoman Kern, seconded by Councilman Smith, all present in favor of voting for adoption of Resolutions 1-2010 through 27-2010 by Consent agenda, as follows:

- 1-2011**      Annual Schedule of Meetings
- 2-2011**      Temporary Appropriations
- 3-2011**      Designate the Press of Atlantic City as the Official Instrument for the Publication of Legal Notices for the City of Northfield
- 4-2011**      Annual Appointments
- 5-2011**      Authorizing Awards of Contracts for 2011 Professional Services

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- 6-2011** Authorizing Awards of Contract for Public Defender and Municipal Prosecutor
- 7-2011** Safety and Health Committee Appointments
- 8-2011** Establishing Charges for Municipal Public Records
- 9-2011** Authorize Delinquent Tax Penalty Charges
- 10-2011** To Establish the Rate of Interest for Nonpayment of Taxes or Assessments
- 11-2011** To Authorize the Tax Assessor to File a Petition of Appeal or Appeals for the Tax Year 2011
- 12-2011** Appointing Fund Commissioner and Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 13-2011** Appointing Public Agency Compliance Officer
- 14-2011** Appointment of Risk Management Consultant as Required by the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 15-2009** A Resolution Authorizing the Contact Persons to Access the Employment Practices Liability Consultation Service (EPL)/ ACMJIF
- 16-2011** A Resolution Appointing Jay Hurley of Morgan Stanley as the Approved Broker of Record for the City of Northfield's Deferred Compensation 457 Plan
- 17-2011** A Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan
- 18-2011** Hazardous Materials Emergency Management Advisory Council Appointments
- 19-2011** To Authorize Northfield-Linwood Shared Service Committee
- 20-2011** Acceptance of LOSAP Point System and Qualifiers for the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company No. 1
- 21-2011** To Establish 2011 Rates for Birch Grove Park
- 22-2011** To Appoint a Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator

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- 23-2011** DELETED
- 24-2011** To Authorize a Raffle License for Congregation Beth Israel
- 25-2011** Cultural Committee Appointments
- 26-2011** To Authorize the Cultural Committee to Apply for and Obtain a Grant from the NJ Council on the Arts
- 27-2011** Community Development Block Grant Walkway at Birch Grove Park Phase II

Councilman Perri asked if the Professionals were staying the same;

Councilwoman Kern motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to adopt Resolutions 1-2010 through 27-2010.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Vain motioned, Dewees seconded for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 183,179.01.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Carew opened this meeting to the Public. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, the public session was closed.

Councilman Perri read the meeting notices.

On motions properly made and seconded, at 7:22pm this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi  
Municipal Clerk